



Connecticut State Colleges & Universities

At a Glance

Mark E. Ojakian, *President, CT State Colleges and Universities*
Established – 2011

Statutory Authority – Title 10a of the Connecticut General Statutes

System Office – 61 Woodland Street, Hartford, CT 06105-2337

Full-time Employees (Spring 2019) – 5,165

Part-time Employees (Spring 2019) – 5,530

Recurring Operating Expenditures: Operating Fund – \$ 598,053,158

General Fund – \$ 560,260,327

Building Value – Cost Basis: \$2,495,199,000 – Less Depreciation: (\$948,271,000) =
Net Book Value: \$1,546,928

Contents Value – Cost Basis: \$423,905,000 – Less Depreciation: (\$255,727,000) =
Net Book Value: \$168,178,000

Total Student Enrollment (Fall 2019) – 80,000

Organizational Structure – The CT Board of Regents for Higher Education is the governing board for the Connecticut State College and University (CSCU) System. The CSCU System is comprised of 17 public institutions of higher education, including 12 community colleges, four state universities, and one distance learning college.

The Board consists of 21 members, including 15 voting members: nine members are appointed by the Governor, four members are appointed by legislative leadership, and two members are elected by students (the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Student Advisory Committee). The six non-voting, ex-officio members are the Commissioner of the Department of Education, the Commissioner of the Department of Economic and Community Development, the Commissioner of the Department of Labor, the Commissioner of the Department of Public Health, and the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Faculty Advisory Committee.

Members (as of 9/1/19)

Matt Fleury, Chair

Dr. Merle W. Harris, Vice Chair

Richard J. Balducci

Naomi K. Cohen
David R. Jimenez
Aviva D. Budd
Felice Gray-Kemp
Elena Ruiz*
JoAnn Ryan
Elease E. Wright
Holly Howery
Dr. Pete Rosa

Ex-Officio
David Lehman**
William Lugo**
Delwyn F. Cummings**
Kurt Westby**
Renee D. Coleman-Mitchell**
Miguel A. Cardona**

*Student Regent **Ex-Officio, Non-Voting

*Student Regent Sage Maier graduated in May. Her seat is currently vacant, pending the election for Student Advisory Council Chair.

Regional Presidents

Dr. James Lombella, North West Region
Dr. Paul Steinmetz, Capitol East Region
Dr. Thomas Coley, Shoreline West Region

Institution Presidents/CEOs

Dr. Michelle Coach, CEO, Asnuntuck Community College
Dr. Duncan Harris, CEO, Capital Community College
Dr. Zulma Toro, President, Central Connecticut State University
Dr. Ed Klonoski, President, Charter Oak State College
Dr. Elsa Núñez, President, Eastern Connecticut State University
Dr. Paul Broadie, President, Gateway Community College
Dr. Paul Broadie, President, Housatonic Community College
Dr. Tanya Miller, CEO, Manchester Community College
Dr. Steve Minkler, CEO, Middlesex Community College
Dr. Daisy Cocco De Filippis, President, Naugatuck Valley Community College
Dr. Michael Rooke, President, Northwestern Connecticut Community College
Dr. Cheryl DeVonish, CEO, Norwalk Community College
Dr. Rose Ellis, CEO, Quinebaug Valley Community College
Dr. Joe Bertolino, President, Southern Connecticut State University
Dr. Mary Ellen Jukoski, President, Three Rivers Community College
Dr. Darryl Reome, CEO, Tunxis Community College
Dr. John B. Clark, President, Western Connecticut State University

Mission

The Connecticut State Colleges & Universities contribute to the creation of knowledge and the economic growth of the state of Connecticut by providing affordable, innovative, and rigorous programs. Our learning environments transform students and facilitate an ever increasing number of individuals to achieve their personal and career goals.

Statutory Responsibility

The responsibility of the 17 institutions that make up the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities is to provide access to quality and affordable higher education to the people of the state of Connecticut. The Board of Regents for Higher Education is charged with setting policies to carry out that responsibility while aligning with the following goals:

- to ensure that no qualified person be denied the opportunity for higher education on the basis of age, sex, gender identity or expression, ethnic background or social, physical or economic condition,
- to protect academic freedom,
- to provide opportunities for education and training related to the economic, cultural and educational development of the state,
- to assure the fullest possible use of available resources in public and private institutions of higher education,
- to maintain standards of quality ensuring a position of national leadership for state institutions of higher education,
- to apply the resources of higher education to the problems of society, and
- to foster flexibility in the policies and institutions of higher education to enable the system to respond to changes in the economy, society, technology and student interests

Public Service

The chief beneficiaries of CSCU's work are the students served by our institutions. CSCU gauges its effectiveness by engaging in a variety of continuous improvement activities that surround assessment and the analyses of key performance indicators.

Assessment focuses on a data-driven process of educational change, and assesses student learning outcomes, student employment/income outcomes, courses, programs and the institutions that make up CSCU. The analyses of key performance indicators track opportunities for improvement in numerous areas, for instance; student success measures at different points in the post-secondary experience, student retention and graduation rates, changes in the diversity of the CSCU student, faculty and employee populations, as well as peer institution/system comparisons.

About Connecticut State Colleges & Universities

- In the last two decades, CSCU institutions have conferred over 260,000 degrees and certificates.
- CSCU educates Connecticut students and a small but growing number of out-of-state students. More than 97% of CSCU students are Connecticut residents.

- With over 80,000 students, the CSCU system is the second-largest public college system in New England.
- About 45% of all college students in Connecticut attend a CSCU institution.
- Approximately 87% of CSCU graduates remain in Connecticut after receiving their degrees.
- Non-credit programs, such as those targeting workforce training, serve an additional 30,000 students.

Improvements and Achievements for Fiscal Year 2019

Connecticut State Colleges & Universities

- Community college students within the CSCU system are now able to easily search for No or Low Cost (NoLo) text-based course materials during course registration, offering significant potential savings for students.
- CSCU announced the “Team Works” Advanced Manufacturing Workforce Development Strategic Plan, developed collaboratively with stakeholders across education, government and industry.
- The Board of Regents voted to make the institutional aid application available for undocumented students.
- CSCU was awarded a number of grants, including from the Lumina Foundation for \$291,300 to fund an adult learner policy; Third Sector selected CSCU to receive training and assistance in leveraging innovative financing to fund wraparound support services to students; US DOL awarded CSCU \$8 million to build upon successful Advanced Manufacturing Apprenticeship programs.
- Today, community college graduates automatically gain acceptance and seamlessly transfer their credits in more than 25 concentrations toward a four year degree, potentially saving students thousands of dollars in the process of attaining a world class degree. Seeing the success of the TAP program between our colleges and universities, several private universities have now signed up to participate as well.
- We institutionalized our partnership with the Department of Social Services and we are now the *second community college system in the country* to provide workforce education to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients.
- All of our schools are engaging female students and students from underrepresented populations in programming to peak their interest and pursuit of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM). These efforts bring in partners from the Boys and Girls Clubs, the CT Science Center, local school districts and other organizations to promote access and equity.
- At the universities, through partnerships with local K-12 school systems we tackle these issues head on, working together to address the equity gap early and better preparing students, regardless of their backgrounds, for the rigors of a college education.

- We collaborated with the State Department of Transportation to offer the UPass program, giving CSCU students unlimited public transportation for one year for \$40. For the current semester, we have made 60,000 passes available to our students at all the participating institutions.
- We negotiated a new contract for our bookstores to reduce the cost of books for students, and promoted the use of Open Education Resources (OER). As a result, our students have saved more than \$4 million dollars in textbook costs in one year while, over the past 4 years, our faculty has saved over 14,000 students more than \$1.5 million through OER.

Students First Update:

Students First is CSCU’s long-term strategy to improve student outcomes and put the system on a sustainable fiscal trajectory. It will unify the existing 12 community colleges into a single accredited institution – maintaining access to all current campuses and satellites – while implementing a Guided Pathways approach to improve student success.

Over the last year, several key milestones in the Students First plan have been achieved:

- Guided Pathways will help ensure our students receive the supports they need from the time they enter our colleges through the time they graduate and enter the workforce.
- This is particularly important for our students of color who face a persistent achievement gap. All 12 colleges will be part of the Achieving the Dream network to focus on improving student outcomes, particularly for this population.
- More than 400 faculty, staff, and students from across all 12 of our colleges are participating in working groups through a collaborative and transparent process. The work of these committees is open to the public and shared through our system website.
- Three Regional Presidents were appointed in April 2019. Their role provides focused leadership and coordination among regional college campuses and fosters collaboration and alignment, increasing “shared services”.
- New interim Campus CEOs were announced. The CEOs act as a visible presence on campus and within the local community, as well as hiring and manage all campus faculty, staff, and operations.
- NECHE accepted CSCU’s update July 2019 and provided helpful guidance as work continues toward accreditation of the one college by 2023.

ASNUNTUCK COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- Through a generous donation received from the Connecticut Health Foundation, Asnuntuck Community College is creating a Wellness Center and expanding the Food Pantry on campus. This grant has allowed ACC to have a one-stop location for wraparound health and social services. ACC is partnering with Enfield Department of Social Services, Community Health Center, and Community Health Resources for on-campus services. In addition, ACC has an AmeriCorps VISTA Employee managing and building capacity for the Wellness Center and Pantry.

- In partnership with the Department of Labor and ACC's Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center (AMTC), the college has developed a new 2-year, 300-hour manufacturing apprenticeship program that provides free training and wage reimbursement to employers. Topics covered include Blueprint Reading, Geometric Dimensioning and Tolerancing, Industrial Maintenance, Quality Control and more. The first cohort includes 16 students from four local manufacturers.
- The Asnuntuck Business Center (ABC) opened in 2019 and is an official SCORE location, offering free mentoring and more to small businesses in the area. The ABC also runs free small business-oriented workshops including "Writing Your Business Plan," "Accessing State & Local Funding For Your Business", and more.
- Asnuntuck Community College has created a Cosmetology suite on campus and will offer the first Cosmetology class this fall. The 1,500-hour program will prepare students for a hairdressing license in Connecticut. Clinic services, which include hair and other beauty services, will be open to staff, faculty, students and the public at a reduced cost.
- Twenty-nine international students participated in a series of experiential learning opportunities and field trips over seven weeks this summer. Students participated in non-credit classes focusing on the following areas: ESL, ESL-instructor, Introduction to Sterile Processing, and Job Skills & Career Development.
- *G.I. Jobs* has selected Asnuntuck Community College to be designated as an official Military Friendly School every year since 2009. This honor ranks Asnuntuck in the Top 15-20% of all colleges and universities nationwide as a Military Friendly School.
- Asnuntuck Community College has graduated 80 students from the Second Chance Pell program. These students have completed certificates in the areas of Advanced Manufacturing Machine Technology, Business Administration, and Human Services Management. Many of these students graduated with honors and as Phi Theta Kappa members.
- The Asnuntuck Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center received preliminary certification for ISO 9001:2015 International Quality Management System. This certification covers fundamental management and quality assurance practices. It is an excellent foundation of planning, control, and improvement of the AMTC programs. Asnuntuck is one of the few colleges in the United States with ISO 9001: 2015 certification.
- AMTC has enrolled over 500 students in our certificates and programs in Machine Technology, Welding Technology, and Electro-Mechanical Maintenance Technician this past year. Also, AMTC provided industry training to CT Manufacturers for over 200 individuals to improve their manufacturing skills sets.

CAPITAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- Strategic Enrollment Management and Achieving the Dream Initiative - CCC participated in a data and predictive analytics project with the UConn School of Business Center for the Advancement of Business Analytics (CABA). Results of the project are being used to build predictive retention models for new and continuing students. A cross-divisional Strategic Enrollment Management Committee (SEMC) was formed in July 2018 to focus enrollment efforts and decision making. The SEMC is now a staple of college operations and has had a significant impact on enrollment planning and success. The group has developed tools to track and respond to observed enrollment trends. In addition, CCC revitalized activities aimed at improving student outcomes. New campus leads have been identified and a new group, the Student Success Work Group (SSWG), was formed to focus college efforts on the initiative. Members of the team attended the Achieving the Dream (ATD) Conference this spring and ATD Summer Institute.
- CCC Foundation and Grant Activity - The CCC Foundation engaged the Harvest Development Group to conduct an assessment of the organization. The final report is being used to inform fundraising strategy for the Foundation going forward. The CCC Foundation's 21st Century Fund awarded \$57,000 in grants in support of campus projects and initiatives, including student institutional memberships to the city's cultural and historic institutions, Concerts @ Capital, financial literacy, diversity and inclusion programs and tutoring support. The Foundation awarded more than \$80,000 in 2018-2019 in scholarships to new and continuing students. In addition, an Emergency Microgrant Student Fund addressed immediate needs of students facing personal and economic hardships. The Foundation partnered with the college in pursuit of grant opportunities and was awarded grants from the following organizations: Connecticut Health & Educational Facilities Authority (CHEFA), CT Office of Higher Education, CT Humanities Council, Guardian Life Insurance Company, Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, Hartford Consortium for Higher Education, the Stanley D. and Hinda N. Fisher Fund, the National Science Foundation, Travelers, Liberty Bank Foundation, and the Widows Society.
- Campus Physical Improvements and Energy Conservation - CCC completed a lighting energy conservation project working with the Siemens Corporation. It is estimated that the college will achieve energy savings in excess of \$60,000 annually as a result of the upgrades. A major outdoor signage project designed to increase presence and image in downtown Hartford was completed. Initial feedback has been favorable. Additionally, improvements have been made to student study and lounge areas, specialized classrooms, the lobby, and campus meeting spaces.
- Holistic Support of Students and Equity -CCC introduced a campus Equity Center this spring. The Equity Center will partner with community based organizations and services to address gaps in student resources that impact college retention and completion. A faculty coordinator was hired and a planning grant was received from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving (\$31,000) to initiate efforts. CCC officially launched its food pantry and entered into an agreement with FoodShare to provide food to CCC students experiencing food security issues. Students have indicated that the pantry has had a positive impact on their ability to address food security issues. CCC conducted a system-wide Black and Latino Male Summit in April. The Summit was deemed a success and will serve as a platform to launch future work in this area.

- Hartford Collaboration and the Arts - CCC continued the second year of the Liberal Arts Action Lab that pairs CCC and Trinity College students working on urban issues impacting Hartford neighborhoods and residents. The Hartford Heritage Project continues to be one of CCC's signature programs with strong and meaningful relationships with The Mark Twain House, Harriet Beecher-Stowe House, The Wadsworth, Hartford Stage, and the Old State House. This year new partnerships gave students' access to the Hartford Symphony and the Connecticut Science Center. CCC produced its first theatrical play at the college, *Lysistrata*. The play was well attended by community members as part of the theatre arts program.
- New Programs and Career Readiness - CCC designed Connecticut Universal Banker Registered Apprenticeship and Cybersecurity programs in partnership with multiple banks, CT Department of Banking and the CT Department of Labor. CCC graduated its first class of graduates from The Hartford Insurance Claims Apprentice program. This program is a collaboration between The Hartford, CCC, and the Department of Labor. CCC conducted a successful Capital Career Fair in April 2019 with over 500 attendees and more than 30 area employers represented. In addition, state and community organizations were represented to provide information on available services. The fair was preceded by a week of preparatory workshops to assist students with the job search process.

CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

- On April 12, 2019, the New England Commission of Higher Education confirmed that Central Connecticut State University was continued in accreditation. The next comprehensive evaluation is scheduled for Fall 2028. The commission commended CCSU for a "comprehensive and candid self-study that highlights the institution's many accomplishments over the last decade and documents the ways in which the University is achieving its mission." The commission also confirmed the inclusion of the Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Program in the institution's accreditation.
- The Central CARES student club sponsors the national program for "Go Baby Go" that puts disabled and immobile children into ride-on toy cars. Under the guidance of Drs. Michele Dischino and James DeLauro (Technology and Engineering Education), student and faculty volunteers have modified over 130 cars for disabled children at no cost to the families. Fisher Price Co. has donated 312 electric cars and \$15,000 to support this effort.
- In January 2019, the Willard-DiLoreto Academic Complex became home to the Carol A. Ammon College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences and numerous student support services under one roof. In addition to housing four academic departments and over 25 new classrooms and computer labs, students can access the Latin American, Latino, & Caribbean Center and critical support services including Student Disabilities, Student Wellness Services, the Registrar, Financial Aid, the Bursar, the Educational Opportunity Program, Explore Central, Career Success Center, Transfer and Academic Articulations, Veteran's Affairs, Victim Advocacy, the Learning Center, and the Writing Center.

- On March 20, 2019, CCSU renamed Social Sciences Hall in honor of Mr. Ebenezer D. Bassett. In 1853, Bassett was the first African American student to graduate from New Britain Normal School, the founding institution for CCSU. Bassett became a noted educator, an influential activist in the anti-slavery movement, and this nation's first African American diplomat as the Minister Resident to Haiti.
- The IMRP partnered with the CT Reentry Collaborative, the Office of Policy and Management, and multiple state and community stakeholders to produce the CT Comprehensive Reentry Strategy – the first one in eight years. The Connecticut Children with Incarcerated Parents (CTCIP) Initiative funded the statewide expansion of Connecting through Literacy: Incarcerated Parents, their Children and Caregivers (CLICC), a mentoring program specifically designed for CIP (Children with Incarcerated Parents) that is now incorporated in correctional facilities across the state. Through its work producing comprehensive analyses of statewide traffic stop data, the CTRP3 (Racial Profiling) team was requested to provide information on recent reports of juvenile car thefts in Connecticut.
- In FY2019, CCSU maintained 77 active grant awards for a total dollar value of almost \$12 million. Of that total, \$2,856,757 was the value of grant awards received during the year. The number of active awards in FY2019 is 20 percent higher compared with FY2018, and the dollar value of active awards is up 30 percent compared with FY2018.
- The Troops to Teachers (TTT) program helps current and former members of the Armed Forces transition into second careers as K-12 teachers upon separation from military service to make a real difference, use their experience and knowledge of real life to make a difference within Connecticut's elementary and secondary schools. Federal funding for state-level TTT programs was provided to the CCSU School of Education and Professional Studies (SEPS) to assist in establishing a Troops to Teachers Program. The CCSU SEPS Troops to Teachers Program assists participants with finding employment as a teacher once eligible, helps to reduce veteran unemployment, increases the number of male and minority teachers in classrooms, and helps address teacher shortages in K-12 schools that serve low-income families and in critical subject areas such as math, science, special education, foreign language, and career-technical education.
- CCSU partnered with the Community Foundation of Greater New Britain to implement the first phase of the Foundation's "Degree Completion Initiative." Through this initiative, CCSU was able to assist in selecting five rising juniors and seniors from Berlin, New Britain, Plainville, and Southington to receive a CFGNB Degree Completion Scholarship. These students are studying in various academic programs, from Elementary Education to Criminology to Exercise Science. CCSU looks forward to continuing this partnership and assisting additional deserving students in the upcoming year.
- Drs. Luz Amaya and Nidal Al-Masoud (Engineering) coordinated the "CCSU All Girls Summer Program," a week-long non-residential summer program for area high school students who identify as female.
- Dr. Bin Zou (Engineering) received \$50,000 from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to improve Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) skills by providing high school

students, minorities, young women, and disadvantaged youth with awareness regarding careers in transportation and to encourage them to take transportation-related technical curricula in pursuit of a transportation career.

- The new Office of Financial Literacy has begun implementing outreach efforts to the CCSU and local communities. The Office has scheduled several workshops both on-campus and in local high schools to assist students and their families with questions regarding financing their education, managing student debt, understanding credit, and budgeting for living on- or off-campus. In addition to these workshops, the Financial Literacy Coordinator will visit classrooms and residence halls and will assist in coordinating Financial Literacy events on campus in the upcoming academic year.
- The Office of Transfer and Academic Articulations worked closely with faculty at both CCSU and Manchester Community College to draft and execute an articulation agreement that establishes a clear pathway for students transferring from Manchester Community College's Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management Department to CCSU's Carol Ammon College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences Tourism and Hospitality Studies program.
- Faculty members from the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice have trained Connecticut probation officers to use a cognitive behavioral intervention with their clients, assisted the Connecticut Department of Correction to help ex-inmates to become gainfully employed, and have influenced legislative changes in Connecticut domestic violence laws through the study of Connecticut Public Act 15-211: Domestic Violence Offender Program Standards.

CHARTER OAK STATE COLLEGE

- Charter Oak celebrated 45 years of serving adult students and its 20th graduation of women from its Women in Transition program, a program that helps working single mothers earn an Associate and/or Bachelor's degree with financial assistance and a laptop with Internet access.
- The Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) Office, with funding from the Foundation, granted scholarships to 23 students who collectively earned 148 credit for exams, credentials, and portfolios. This saved students the cost of tuition, an average of \$2,000 per student. The PLA Office, at the request of Tunxis Community College, reviewed the TRUMPF Manufacturing apprenticeship program to make college credit recommendations, which allows the apprentices to use those credits towards a college degree. The PLA Office has also reviewed all the non-collegiate paramedic-training programs in CT and Rhode Island and the American Board of Registry Electroneurodiagnostic Technologists professional credentials for credit, which allows those students to use those credits towards a college degree.
- To expand its services to students, Charter Oak changed its tutoring service to e-tutor.com which offers 24/7 online support, increased the Accessibility Specialist from part time to full time, and revamped its onboarding process of new students.

- To increase enrollment and registration, the College created an enrollment and retention college-wide committee that uses data analytics driven by Power BI. This has allowed the Admissions, Advising, Business, and Financial Aid Offices to better manage their workloads. Admissions brought in 13.7% more students (both *new* and *readmit*), increased deposits by 12% compared to FY 18, and increased registered head counts by 9.4% in fall and 6.1% in spring. The College continued to reach out to its dropouts: 685 students were contacted, 91 have re-applied.
- Charter Oak graduated 9.4% more student with associate degrees and 4.3% more students with bachelor’s degrees compared to FY 18. The master’s program graduated its first large class of 42 students.
- Child studies concentration was moved to a major. The Early Childhood Teaching Credential was approved by the State Department of Education at both the associate level and continued approval was granted at the bachelor’s level. The College has also started the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) approval process for its early childhood program.
- The Financial Aid Office processed 2.8% more FAFSAs than in FY 18, bucking the national trend of a 4.1% decline. Both Pell Funding and number of recipients increased by about 11%. Through the Charter Oak Community College Match Scholarship fund, 110 community college students were able to enroll at Charter Oak at the community college tuition rate.
- The Charter Oak Foundation awarded 124 students over \$131,000. The Alumni Association awarded its first COSC Master’s Degree scholarship.
- The Connecticut Distance Learning Consortium was successfully closed, and its remaining programs were moved to the College. As part of this transition, the Connecticut Education Academy, Connecticut Adult Virtual High School, and Connect-Ability courses were moved to the new Blackboard SaaS system.

EASTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

- Prudent fiscal management again resulted in an end-of-year balanced budget without the need to use reserves. In addition to savings realized by lower personnel costs, the university funded an additional \$300,000 in financial aid to needy students and allocated \$1.3 million to update and replace auxiliary equipment that was not included in our original budget.
- In 2019, Eastern won the Little East Conference’s Commissioner’s Cup—for overall athletic team performance—for the third year in a row.
- In 2018-19, Eastern tied for first in Connecticut for its overall “equity” rating as evaluated by the Race and Equity Center at the University of Southern California.
- For the ninth time, Eastern was named a “Great College to Work For” by The Chronicle of Higher Education; was named a Green College by the Princeton Review for the ninth consecutive year; and was named a “Top Workplace” in Connecticut for the seventh time.

- Eastern’s two Barnard Scholars included math major Haley Knox, who was a New England track champion and will start at Cigna this fall as a Big Data Software Engineer; and Biology major Jacob Dayton ’19, who will begin a Ph.D. program in genetics this fall at Tufts University.
- History Professor David Frye’s book, “Walls,” has gained international acclaim; English Professor Daniel Donaghy’s latest poetry collection, “Somerset,” received the Patterson Prize as the outstanding book of poetry in 2019; and Accounting Professor Moh’d RuJoub received the Distinguished Service Award for Educators from the Institute of Management Accountants in November 2018, as the sole recipient in the nation.
- New academic programs include new concentrations in the Communication major: Advertising, Applied Media Production, Leadership Communication, Media Writing & Journalism, Public Relations and General Communication. In addition, a new major in Anthropology was approved by the University Senate and is awaiting BOR approval, and an interdisciplinary Data Science major will be submitted to the University Senate in the fall.
- The ECSU Foundation raised close to \$2 million for the eighth straight year, including 18 major gifts totaling more than \$650,000. The #WarriorsGive campaign during the month of November 2018 was the third such annual campaign and yielded the best year ever—a record \$194,927 was raised from 812 donors.
- Eastern continues to make a case that it is the premier public institution in Connecticut for undergraduate research. For the sixth year in a row and the eighth time in 13 years, an Eastern student represented Connecticut at the Posters on the Hill conference in the nation’s capital. In the past two years, Eastern has sent a higher percentage of students to the national Conference on Undergraduate Research than any other institution in New England. Three Summer Research Institutes provided a chance for 30 freshmen and sophomores to engage in hands-on research—one institute was conducted by the Psychology Department, one in Political Science, and one in Mathematics and Computer Science. Finally, three Eastern students were accepted to present at the World Undergraduate Research Congress in Germany for the first time.
- Following the reopening of the renovated Communication Building in fall 2018—complete with a spacious lobby, renovated TV studio and new radio station—Goddard and Shafer Halls have been renovated and are reopening for fall 2019 occupancy. Goddard includes new labs for Communication and Psychology, as well as new classrooms and other workspaces. Shafer Hall, built in 1946, has been completely renovated for residential use, housing approximately 90 students.
- The Center for Community Engagement (CCE) engaged more faculty in developing service learning courses, with a 38% increase in student volunteers, a 30% increase in service-learning volunteer hours, and a 27% increase in service-learning course sections.

GATEWAY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- GCC hosted a Poverty Simulation; the goal of the live-action poverty simulation was to promote a greater understanding of poverty. During the simulation, GCC students, faculty, staff and leadership role-played the lives of low-income families trying to maintain their self-sufficiency. Our hope was that the stimulation helped promote poverty awareness, increase understanding and most importantly, inspire change.
- The Family Economic Security Program (FESP) program has successfully completed its first year at GCC. FESP is grant funded program designed to offer high touch, wrap around services to our students. We currently have 49 students participating in FESP and we are in the process of recruiting 50 more students to join us for our Fall 2019 semester. Having a program like FESP on campus has been life changing for our students. Due to the services and support FESP offers, students have been able to stay in their homes, pay for car repairs and have their utility services restored, to name a few.
- The Connecticut Breastfeeding Coalition held an event at GCC. The Nutrition Consultant and State Breastfeeding Coordinator, Marilyn Lonczak, was given a tour of our Lounge for Nursing Mothers (LNM). Impressed by what she saw, she encouraged the Wellness Center’s Coordinator to complete an application to be recognized as a “CT Breastfeeding Friendly Employer”. The application has been received and accepted and are in the final stages of being awarded.
- GCC and HCC have partnered to offer a joint Surgical Technology AS Degree program. Surgical Technology is a satellite program of Housatonic Community College. The program shares a common plan of study and curriculum, and each college will admit 20 students for a total enrollment of 40 students. This collaboration is unique in that Gateway and Housatonic have also partnered with Yale-New Haven Hospital to offset some of the cost of the program. YNHH has hired and funds the required Clinical Coordinator position for the program. The position is shared by both colleges. The Program Coordinator is also shared between Housatonic and Gateway, creating a structure that promotes a model of shared resources, collaboration, and cost savings. The most significant outcome of this partnership and shared model is the benefit to students because each site has the ability to offer a program with high workforce demands. This program addresses the needs in surgical technology in the local region and the State of CT by creating a pipeline of prospective technologists for area hospitals. This is a unique program (not offered at other community colleges in the state) and leverages the existing program and resources at HCC for students in the greater New Haven area who may now pursue the Surgical Technology Degree program at GWCC. Official BOR approval date: 9/20/18.
- The new Culinary Arts AA Degree program fulfills GWCC’s mission to provide a Culinary associate degree at its downtown campus, leveraging existing certificate programs in Culinary Arts and Professional Baker, and utilizing its 7,500 square feet of state-of-the-art kitchen laboratories and a full service restaurant Café Vincenzo at the College’s downtown campus. This program serves career need in the restaurant and food industries, and provides opportunity for transfer to Bachelor degree institutions like Johnson & Wales University and the University of New Haven. The College will seek specialized accreditation of this degree in 2021-2022 with

the American Culinary Federation Education Foundation Accrediting Commission. Official BOR approval date: 3/28/19.

- Exciting partnership Between Gateway Community College, Housatonic Community College and Quinnipiac University with Seamless Transfer Agreement. This historic agreement guarantees admission into a bachelor's degree program for students with an Associate of Arts, and Associate of Science in Business, College of Technology Engineering Science, Nursing and or an Allied Health degree. Students with a GPA of 3.0 and above are offered generous scholarship support.
- GCC received the Child Care Access Means Parents in School Grant (U.S. Department of CCAMPIS) for \$427,500, awarded in May 2019. This grant supports the College's Early Learning Center to expand childcare hours into evenings to support Pell eligible GWCC students who require this support after 6:00 p.m.
- GCC's Gateway to College program, a three-semester College program designed to support over-aged high school students in danger of dropping out with concurrent enrollment in diploma and college level courses. GWCC becomes the first CT college to undertake this program, part of a national network, awarding \$150,000 for start-up costs, and a per pupil funding ratio totaling \$550,000 from the New Haven Public Schools. The program's start-up in Fall 2018 brought 52 high school students to the campus. 3 graduated in January and another 12 in June. The program is poised for its second academic year and will maintain enrollments of around 50 students.
- Gateway Community College received a 100% tax credit offering from the Neighborhood Assistance Act and utilized funding to underwrite a lighting project at the College. We raised \$51,000 from the following corporate sources: Wells Fargo, Webster Bank, United Illuminating, and Suzio York Hill Construction Company.
- The Gateway Community College Foundation awarded 164 scholarships totaling over \$100,000. The Gateway Community College Foundation received a major gift in the amount of \$100,000 in early 2019. Together with the Gateway Community College Foundation, GCC launched a new student centered retention initiative. The Family Economic Security Program (FESP) is based on programs in place at Norwalk and Housatonic in partnership with the Fairfield County's Community Foundation. The program had 49 participants for the 2019 spring semester.
- As of August 19, 2019, GCC received \$194,500 in funding from the following private sector grants to support FESP:
 - The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven awarded a grant of \$79,500 over three years for FESP, with grants from the Wells Fargo Foundation awarding \$90,000, The Carolyn Foundation awarding \$15,000 (for New Haven residents enrolled in FESP), and Key Bank awarding \$10,000.
 - The collaboration between GCC and HCC was expanded to create efficiencies in workflow between the two institutions by creating templates, forms and operational practices that work across campuses to increase responsiveness and productivity.

- GCC increased marketing and communications efforts by adding a staff writer to increase visibility in print and digital media as well as on social media. GCC launched the GCC Impact Monthly Newsletter for internal and external stakeholders. Through joint advertising and promotional buys, HCC and GCC were able to realize significant cost savings on television, radio, digital and print campaigns. GCC also increased search optimization.
- Associate Dean of the department was named Practitioner of the Year by the Public Relations Society of America.
- GCC Renovation of more than six learning spaces in the Allied Health and Nursing, Humanities, Writing Center and open lab areas that increased student seats and/or enabled the repurposing of classroom spaces, such as dual purpose lab/lecture rooms for the Music Department. Vita Tax program, where more than 800 low income students were serviced and more than \$1,000,000 in tax returns were generated for the students.
- Support for campus special events- Super Saturday registration- that allowed the college to register a record number of students on Saturdays; Vita Tax program, where more than 800 low income students were serviced and more than \$1,000,000 in tax returns were generated for the students; Campus Open House, where we used the Innovation Room to display our most progressive classroom technology- smart boards, Multimedia, programmable robots and 3D printers and scanners.
- Purchase and installation of 30 rugged laptops for the Automotive Program. Enables the students to perform automobile diagnostics in an environment similar to a dealership or modern mechanics shop.
- Supported campus NPR initiative by providing network connectivity and a dedicated rack for NPR transmission equipment.
- Educational Technology Department Annual Summer Technology Series - This is a series of 8 workshops to promote the use of technology in the classrooms. Topics included SmartBoards, Smart Podiums and Smart TVs, Camtasia, NetOps, Echo 360 and Classroom response were covered. One hundred (100) faculty members participated.

HOUSATONIC COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- Housatonic Community College will be the first in Connecticut to partner with JED Campus (NY) and Health Mind Survey (University of Michigan) (next only to SCSU) in implementing the Healthy Mind Survey (HMS) and JED Campus Integrative approach in establishing a sustainable mental health and wellness programs and services for our students.
- HCC received a Truth Initiative Grant for \$20,000. HCC will implement an institution-wide project aimed at students, faculty and staff to advocate for, adopt, and implement a 100% smoke-free or 100% tobacco free policy at the college.

- In keeping with HCC’s mission “to empower all individuals to develop to their full potential as lifelong learners and contribute responsibly to our dynamic regional and global society, PASS@HCC strives to address barriers to success and improve the academic performance, retention, and graduation rates of Housatonic’s underserved students of color. The Promotion Academically Successful Students (PASS) program was made possible by the State of Connecticut’s Office of Higher Education.
- HCC was awarded \$42,000 to support the 28 students enrolled in the Spring 2019 cohort. Mentorship was offered to students, as well as workshops that covered academic success, financial literacy, career readiness, and wellness and nutrition. PASS@ HCC understands that the student is a whole individual and desires to support them completely. In addition to these supports, students were given crucial academic supplies (USB drives, laptops, printer, folders, notebooks, index cards, academic planners, etc.) that would aid them during the semester.
- Out of the 28 students, 12 increased their GPAs and, as a result, returned to Good Academic Standing. Three out of the 12 successfully completed the program in its entirety (which included meeting with their mentors and attending workshop and programming). The average GPA was 2.51.
- Housatonic Community College has been given the opportunity to extend the program for the full 2019-2020 academic year, and anticipate working with 80 students over the course of the two semesters with a grant award of \$120,000.
- Dr. Kelly Hope, HCC’s Director of Student Life, published a book entitled, “Black Women Speaking from Within: Essays and Experiences in Higher Education.”
- Housatonic Community College and Gateway Community College entered into a partnership with Quinnipiac University. Our partnership with Quinnipiac University creates a seamless pathway for students in the areas of Business, Nursing, Allied Health and Engineering. The agreement provides students with dual admissions and three credits per year at no charge. In addition, students are eligible for up to \$22,000 in scholarships. As an added benefit, all HCC employees are eligible for a 10% discount off admission.
- Housatonic Promise: HCC will provide a free community college experience during the 2019-2020 year to recent high school graduates in the greater Bridgeport region. “The Housatonic Promise,” a merit-based scholarship program, pays for a student’s tuition and fees after all other federal, institutional and state aid have been applied. The Housatonic Promise program is funded by generous support through the Housatonic Community College Foundation. A donor made this exciting initiative possible by launching it with a \$100,000 grant to create the innovative scholarship for high-achieving students in need. The program is open to students who reside in the college’s regional service area, have attended a CT Public or Charter high school for two or more years, and have graduated by the end of 2018-2019 academic year with a minimum 3.0 GPA (on a 4.0 scale) from one of the HCC identified Public or Charter High Schools; students must demonstrate unmet financial need, and there are limits on family income; and is open to all community college students regardless of citizenship.

- HCC received the following distinction: The National Wildlife Federation, Certified Wildlife Habitat, this property (HCC) is recognized for its commitment to sustainably provide essential elements of wildlife habitat: food, water, cover and places to raise young.

MANCHESTER COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- MCC's Affirmative Action Plan was approved, with a 75% Hiring Goal Achievement, a 75% Promotional Goal Achievement, and 100% Program Goal Achievement.
- MCC initiated a scheduling pilot program, which was a collaboration between Academic and Student Affairs. The pilot included a yearlong course schedule for students (aim for 24 credits) and requires low to no prerequisites courses.
- MCC's Culinary Arts and Hospitality program had a successful visit from the American Culinary Federation accreditation team.
- MCC received multiple grants awarded to faculty and staff for OER initiatives by the MCC Foundation and CSCU.
- MCC completed several campus-wide renovations and improvements, including to the radiology lab, the bio-prep lab, the Learning Resource Center Skylight replacement, and the Cheney Dining Room renovations.
- MCC Foundation funded 748 scholarships totaling \$465,351 awarded. The foundation also granted \$13,926 in gifts to students for purchasing textbooks, and 21 projects totaling \$1.3 million from their campaign 2020 and an additional 17 projects totaling \$39,555 from the annual fund.
- MCC created a Pre-Manufacturing Program, funded by Capital Workforce Partners. This program is the fourth Pre-Manufacturing Program for formerly incarcerated individuals in the state.
- MCC's Cyient Corporation Partnership designed a 5-Course Advanced Manufacturing Program. The second cohort of students started in Fall 2018 and completed in Spring 2019.
- MCC also received multiple grants furthering initiatives on campus, including from WiSTEM, Common Read, USDA Aquaculture ELC, VISTA and the CT Dept of Education PASS Program.

MIDDLESEX COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- MxCC's 52nd Annual Commencement ceremony saw 419 students awarded with 456 degrees and certificates. The ceremony was held at the college's satellite center at O.H. Platt High School in Meriden. U.S. Congresswoman Jahana Hayes' commencement speech electrified the packed audience in the auditorium and overflow crowd in the gymnasium. Her own life story identified

with, and affirmed, the lives of many of the students. A graduate of Naugatuck Valley Community College, Hayes declared that community colleges are special places unlike other institutions of higher education: We're local. We're personal. We're family. And, we make a positive difference in the lives of others.

- The MxCC chapter of the international honor society Phi Theta Kappa (PTK), Beta Gamma Xi, received the national Distinguished Chapter Officer Team Award at the PTK Catalyst Convention held on April 5 in Orlando, Florida – the only chapter from New England to earn national PTK recognition this year. In addition, MxCC’s chapter was named a 2019 REACH Chapter (Recognizing Excellence in Acceptance and Completion with Honors) for an 18.6% acceptance rate, higher than the PTK average rate of 14.4%.
- MxCC student Megan Wallett served as an intern in Governor Ned Lamont’s office. She worked in the Constituent Services Office, where she communicated directly with Connecticut residents on a regular basis by phone, email, and in person. Her office also drafted official proclamations.
- Students in MxCC’s emergency medical technician (EMT) course are among the first in the state to learn how to administer intramuscular epinephrine by traditional syringe in cases of anaphylaxis. The Connecticut EMS Medical Advisory Committee and the Commissioner of Public Health approved the expanded training program in February to offset the rising cost and short supply of auto-injectors such as the EpiPen.
- MxCC was awarded a Gold Level Military Friendly® School designation for 2019–20. For more than a decade, these ratings have set the standard for colleges demonstrating positive employment and education outcomes for veterans and their families. The Gold Level is the highest rating that any school or college can receive. MxCC has been recognized as a Military Friendly® School since 2012 and currently enrolls about 175 student veterans.
- Students and staff in the MxCC Center for New Media worked with the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to create six short videos that will be used to help promote the Long Island Sound Blue Plan, a collective vision for preserving Connecticut’s greatest natural resource and ecological treasure. For the first time, this initiative identifies and protects Significant Human Use Areas, and Ecologically Significant Areas based on the best available scientific data and stakeholder input.
- Students and staff helped host the first CSCU Pride Conference on October 13 held at MxCC, and participated in the city of Middletown’s first Pride Parade and Festival on June 15. Both events marked the successful celebration of our diverse community and particularly the lives and contributions of those who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer/questioning.
- MxCC expanded its Manufacturing program by offering credit and non-credit courses at Vinal Technical High School in Middletown, including the 5-week “Skill-Up” program offered in collaboration with the Workforce Alliance.

NAUGATUCK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- NVCC first awarded more than 1,000 associate degrees and certificates in 2012. This achievement was repeated for the eighth year in a row in 2019 when the College conferred 1,206 awards. Since Academic Year 2007-2008, NVCC has seen a 126% increase in the total number of awards conferred, a 135% increase in the number of male graduates and a 535% increase in Hispanic student graduates.
- NVCC was awarded a CCAMPIS (Child Care Access Means Parents in School Program) grant from the U.S. Department of Education that will allow NVCC's Center for Early Childhood Education to implement a sliding scale for the Center's tuition to be zero dollars per Pell-eligible student. The grant is estimated at approximately \$89,000 for the first year and is renewable for four years.
- NVCC was awarded a \$75,000 PASS (Promoting Academically Successful Students) grant from the Connecticut Office of Higher Education for Spring 2019. The PASS grant supported 50 NVCC students from underrepresented groups who were on academic probation. NVCC's Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) supported these students through the creation of four academic coaching positions who addressed academic skills and designed weekly academic skills workshops in time management, mindset, reading for college, note taking, and more.
- NVCC was one of five colleges in Connecticut to receive a CHEFA (Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority) client grant to support STEM education and careers. NVCC is using the \$73,681 grant to expand its advanced manufacturing technology program to include welding technology in its Danbury service area.
- The Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence program approved NVCC's fourth scholar for the 2018-2019 academic year. NVCC welcomed Aguibou Bougobali Sanou from Burkina Faso, West Africa. Sanou, an international performer specializing in African Dance, taught dance classes at NVCC, taught a Master Class at Eastern Connecticut State University, collaborated with grant partner, the Waterbury Arts Magnet School, held dance-related community activities, choreographed the NVCC production of *Little Shop of Horrors*, and headlined NVCC's third annual International Center for the Arts community celebration.
- In October 2018, President De Filippis was inducted as a member of the Connecticut Immigrant Heritage Hall of Fame. In April 2019, she was among six inductees to receive the "Wonder Woman" Award from the Malta House of Care.
- In December 2018, CALAHE (Connecticut Association of Latinos in Higher Education) recognized NVCC for its achievements as a designated Hispanic Serving Institution. CALAHE also honored President De Filippis with a Lifetime Achievement Award.
- Professors Rebecca Binney, Peter Angelastro and Marian Zerbi are principal investigators for an NSF (National Science Foundation) S-STEM Broadening Participation and Institutional Capacity Grant. The grant awards approximately \$650,000 to create the Naugatuck Valley

STEM Inclusive Opportunity Network. NViSION will provide 75 students with \$1,000- to \$5,000-per-year scholarships.

- In February 2019, the AMTC (Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center) at NVCC was one of ten nationwide finalists invited by the Bellwether College Consortium to present how the AMTC drives workforce development in the service region.
- NVCC's student newspaper, *The Tamarack*, received five collegiate division awards at the 2019 Connecticut Society of Professional Journalists' Excellence in Journalism Awards ceremony.
- NVCC faculty and students in the Horticulture Program designed a landscape display for the Connecticut Flower Show at the Hartford Convention Center and competed against many landscape businesses and trade organizations throughout the state. NVCC's design won awards for "Best Outdoor Living Space" and "Best Urban Garden."

NORTHWESTERN CONNECTICUT COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- Northwestern achieved the highest percentage of enrollment gains of any community college in Fall 2018 (+1.5%) and Spring 2019 (+10.1%). Currently, Northwestern also has the highest in gains for Fall 2019. These gains are due to efforts to move students that place at the transitional level into credit courses, expansion of the dual enrollment partnerships, and converting the new and continuing students from part-time to full-time.
- Northwestern was awarded a \$35,000 grant from the Draper Foundation to purchase new STEM equipment. The goal of the grant is to use the new equipment to establish a Makerspace for the community and other efforts to recruit more students into STEM fields.
- Northwestern is the first community college to start a Data Science program (certificate), and is currently in the process of adding Data Science to the College of Technology as an online A.S. option. The use of data scientist teams is one of the fastest growing fields in the business industry. While current jobs require a bachelor degree, new jobs are being created at the associates degree level of entry which allows our students to enter this field early while receiving mentorship within these organizations from senior data scientists.
- Northwestern received a \$35,000 Study Abroad Capacity Building grant from the US Department of State. This grant will develop a study abroad capacity building program that would introduce both students and faculty to the opportunities and benefits of studying abroad. This project will also develop Virtual International Experiences (VIEs) for faculty and students which will be course modules that faculty in any discipline can use in their courses. Faculty from Northwestern will be paired with faculty from institutions in France and Spain. Together they will use interactive lessons that students from both countries can participate in both formally and informally to learn about each other's culture.
- Three adjunct faculty in the Arts & Humanities department received the CSCU OER Mini-grant. The grant will scale the use of the [NROC project](#) materials in place of the traditional textbook for all sections of ENG 096 (Developmental English). The NROC adoption in ENG

096 throughout the academic year 2019-2020 will produce a cost savings to students of \$13,000 each year.

- Northwestern had two semi-finalists for the prestigious Jack Kent Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship. According to the Jack Kent Cooke site, 1500 students from 369 community colleges in 45 states and the District of Columbia applied for the scholarship this past year. The two semi-finalists were in the top third of this pool.
- NCCC went smoke-free on July 1, 2019 and is now a completely smoke and vape free campus.
- Student Sorceres (Suli) Tamarez-Rivera spent her spring break in England, attending the Oxford Consortium for Human Rights (OCHR) spring workshop, titled *Human Rights in and after Conflict*, held at Oxford University, England, on March 11-17, 2019.

NORWALK COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- NCC launched Panther Advising Workshops (PAW) to help students prepare for their first semester of college. Named after the NCC mascot, these three-hour workshops are helping new students register and become familiar with college resources before classes even start. Students learn tips for surviving the first semester, meet with an academic advisor, register for courses, learn how to use myCommNet and sign up for New Student Orientation. PAW workshops have been completed by nearly 400 students.
- NCC Winter Session 2019 enrollment rose 31 percent over last year; the highest ever. More than 340 students from NCC and public and private four-year institutions attended the fast-paced session in which they can earn up to six credits in three weeks.
- The College was named a Platinum Healthy Workplace Employer by the Business Council of Fairfield County for investing in the health and well-being of its employees. NCC promotes physical activity and provides events, lectures and competitions to prevent disease and encourage healthy living.
- The NCC Alpha Iota Nu chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, the national honor society for two-year colleges, was named a Five Star Chapter, the highest level that can be achieved. NCC student Tameeka Young, a member of the Phi Theta Kappa National Honor society, was named a 2019 Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise Scholar and received a \$1,000 scholarship. The Coca-Cola program helps new Phi Theta Kappa members defray educational expenses while enrolled in associate degree programs. Young, 42, is a mother of four and attends NCC with her eldest daughter, Ciara. They enrolled at NCC at the same time and motivate each other to excel in classes.
- In April, retiring NCC President David L. Levinson, Ph.D., received special recognition at the annual Excellence in Education celebration hosted by the Norwalk Public Schools, the Norwalk Federation of Teachers and the Norwalk Education Foundation. In May, President Levinson was honored at the graduation of the second cohort of Norwalk Early College Academy students (NECA). NECA created an annual President David Levinson Scholarship and recognized his efforts for helping establish the dual enrollment program.

- NCC was accepted into Cohort Three of the Culture of Respect Collective, a nonprofit organization that brings together institutions of higher education that are dedicated to ending campus sexual violence. Participating institutions receive strategic support and technical assistance to develop campus-initiated changes that support survivors, prevent sexual violence, and communicate that violence is unacceptable.
- NCC launched a Café Dining restaurant experience that is open to the public for lunch on Thursdays during the spring semester. The program gives students work experience with all phases of running a restaurant or foodservice operation—from setting pricing to preparing entrees to serving as chefs and managers. The Café Dining program has become both an extension of the academic coursework and a revenue generator for NCC. The College hopes to expand the Café Dining program to be open multiple days or nights of the week.
- NCC’s English as a Second Language (ESL) Division debuted its Accelerated ESL Sequence program this year enabling students to complete their ESL degree in just one year—twice as fast as usual. Students are able to finish the first four levels of ESL in just two semesters and earn up to six credits each semester that can count toward graduation. Students commit to four days of classes each week and have access to services including tutoring, a free bus and train pass, and conversation practice sessions with peers.
- Eight NCC students flew to Puerto Rico during Spring Break to do hard labor on homes damaged by Hurricane Maria in 2017. They engaged in a weeklong immersive living and volunteering experience there. The students painted and repaired roofs and ceilings in homes that have been without water and electricity for two years. During the students’ limited free time, they learned about the island’s culture and history.
- Norwalk Community College implemented new initiatives to close the gender gap in engineering and encourage more female students to study engineering in college. NCC hosted a three-part Women in STEM Speaker Series featuring panel discussions with women who work in various engineering occupations, and held workshops for math and science faculty on strategies for reaching out to women in STEM. Only one in five college engineering students is female.
- Three NCC degree programs had 100 percent job placement rates in 2019. The Respiratory Care program graduated its largest class ever and every one of them received a job offer. Respiratory grads are working in hospitals, medical centers and pulmonology practices. All of the Veterinary Technology grads received job offers and are working in animal hospitals, nature centers and veterinary offices. All graduates of the Early Childhood Education program graduates who decided to enter the workforce immediately rather than completing further education received a job offer. They are working in childcare facilities, public schools, Head Start programs, preschools and nature centers.

QUINEBAUG VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- National Institute of Metalworking Skills (NIMS) visited and awarded QVCC's Advanced Manufacturing Center Accreditation for a five-year period –with that QVCC awarded 151 NIMS Credentials to students.
- Through the work of M'lyn Hines (QVCC Library Director) the committee has continued to support LGBTQIA awareness. As faculty advisor, M'lyn has helped students form a Sexuality and Gender Alliance (S.A.G.A.). The group has been building capacity and has taken students to transformative events, such as the first annual CSCU P.R.I.D.E. Conference and the True Colors Conference at the University of Connecticut.
- Quinebaug Valley Community College earned the 2019–2020 Military Friendly® Schools Designation. In addition to Gold Status, QVCC has also been named a Top 10 Military Friendly School, ranking #5 in the small community college category nationwide.
- QVCC Foundation received largest bequest in its history of \$300,000.
- Bread and Soup Events were held on February 19, 2019, at the Cafeteria in Danielson and February 20, 2019, at QV@Windham Tech. Volunteers brought soup and breads to the event, which allows them to sit with others and sample the soup that has been donated. Maria Garcia-Alvarez coordinated the event at QV@WT. \$ 130.73 was raised this year. Co-chair Jon Andersen delivered a check on behalf of the committee to Kimberly Clark, Director of the Covenant Soup Kitchen in Willimantic.

SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

- Southern was awarded a 5-year federal grant of up to \$3.68 million from the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, supporting an effort to improve the health of vulnerable populations in New Haven. The project, called Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health, will be coordinated by the Community Alliance for Research and Engagement (CARE), an organization that is co-housed at the School of Health and Human Services and the Yale School of Public Health (YSPH). It is the largest grant ever received by Southern. A third of the money from the grant – the largest ever received by Southern - will be allocated to the New Haven community via local organizations and leaders with the intent of enhancing and developing health projects to benefit low-income and under-served populations.
- Launching a unique partnership with the City of New Haven and the city's school system, Southern broke ground for the Barack H. Obama Magnet University School. The \$45 million, 64,000-square-foot school, at 69 Farnham Ave., is expected to open in early 2020. It will be the first New Haven school teaching early education on a university's campus, serving pre-K through fourth grade, with almost 500 students. The partnership will place Southern students pursuing a degree in education into Obama School classrooms, offering excellent opportunities for experiential learning.

- Undergraduate students at Southern now have the ability to complete their bachelor's and master's degrees in a combined five years in several majors as part of a package of new accelerated programs. The new pathways are available to students pursuing the following degrees: B.S. in computer science, B.S. in recreation and leisure studies, B.S. in chemistry and B.S. in athletic training. The new programs will enable students to save time and save money, while continuing to provide the full benefit of a high quality educational experience.
- A greater number of outstanding New Haven high school students will have access to college-level classes, thanks to a new agreement between Southern and the New Haven Public Schools. The university already offered tuition-free college classes to a small group of high-achieving high school students willing to come to the campus. But for the first time, Southern is offering the option of taking those college classes at the city's various high schools, where they will be taught by Southern faculty or high school teachers who meet specific criteria and are hired as SCSU adjunct faculty members.
- Southern's electricity bill will be lowered an estimated \$60,000 a year, thanks to an array of more than 3,000 individual solar panels constructed in parking lot 9 off Farnham Avenue. The array will generate 1.2 million kilowatt hours of electricity every year and was made possible through a partnership with CT Green Bank and GE Solar, optimizing federal and state renewable energy incentives.
- Southern commenced a year-long celebration of its 125th anniversary with a communitywide festival and the lowering of two commemorative banners on the front of Buley Library. A bronze Owl Sculpture was later dedicated near the entrance to Engleman Hall, overlooking the academic quad. The following months were punctuated with notable events, including an Alumni Grand Reunion at Homecoming and a poignant performance of *The Guys*, a play about the aftermath of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Olympics swimming legend Michael Phelps delivered the 21st Mary and Louis Fusco Distinguished Lecture, talking not only about his triumphs, but his personal battles with mental health. Complementing Phelps's appearance, the university held a televised forum: *Student Mental Health: Crucial Conversations*, in partnership with Connecticut Public Television. The 125th anniversary celebrations will conclude this fall with a Gala featuring Tony Award-Winning Leslie Odom, Jr. from the Broadway hit, *Hamilton*. Proceeds will support the creation of a fund supporting students' basic needs such as food, shelter, transportation, child care and other essentials.
- Southern's nursing program was lauded as being one of the best in the country after the 2018 graduates of the traditional BSN degree program had a 100 percent first-time pass rate with NCLEX-RN (National Council Licensing Examination for Registered Nurses). Although Southern's pass rate the previous year was remarkable at 95 percent — the highest of all public nursing programs in Connecticut — this was the first time in 10 years that a 100 success rate was achieved. Reflecting the program's overall standard of excellence, the 2018 first-time pass rate for ACE (Accelerated Career Entry) program graduates was 96.77 percent and first-time FNP (Family Nurse Practitioner) certification pass rate was 91.7 percent.
- Public utilities management is a field with an abundance of well-paying jobs and a soon-to-be-crucial deficit of managerial and technological staff. To prepare the next generation of industry

leadership, Southern has created a specialization in public utilities management within the Bachelor of Science degree program in business administration – one of a handful of such programs nationwide. The new program includes 30 credits focusing on management of public utilities, such as water, gas, electric, and wastewater, along with new courses in asset and infrastructure management, green energy and environmental sustainability, crisis/risk management, and workforce safety and industry regulatory codes.

THREE RIVERS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- TRCC named a new Academic Dean, Robert Farinelli who began on November 30. Farinelli comes to Three Rivers from the College of Southern Maryland where he served as Associate Vice-President of Academic Affairs. Prior to that, he held the positions of STEM Director; Division Chair of Mathematics, Physics and Engineering; and faculty member of the Mathematics department. He also held the position of Professor of Mathematics at Community College of Allegheny County. He holds a M.S. in Education from Capella University, a M.A. in Mathematics from the University of Pittsburgh and a B.S. in Mathematics from Pennsylvania State University.
- TRCC received a \$95,018 rebate from Norwich Public Utilities through their Lighting Retrofit Program for Energy Efficient Lighting Upgrade. After a multi-year process, Three Rivers has completed an LED lighting upgrade throughout the campus.
- TRCC celebrated its diverse student body by hanging 28 international flags in the cafeteria that symbolize the many countries from which our current students, faculty and staff come. The flags create a beautiful and welcoming space that showcases student diversity. The Community Support and Involvement Committee purchased the flags and will continue to purchase new flags as the Three Rivers global community grows.
- TRCC Kem Barfield, Associate Dean and Director of Educational Technology earned his Ed.D. from Capella University in June. Valerie Smith completed the Leadership Eastern CT Program through the Chamber of Commerce of Eastern CT.
- TRCC Professor Mark Vesligaj has been awarded a prestigious Fulbright International Education Administrators Seminar award to Russia. The Fulbright Program aims to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries and is the flagship international educational exchange program sponsored by the U.S. government. In March, Professor Vesligaj traveled with four other American scholars to St. Petersburg, Moscow and Tver to focus on the role of community colleges in higher education and within the local community.
- TRCC Foundation Board of Directors welcomed three new members at their September 2018 meeting: Ms. Laura Currie, RN, MS, Vice-President, William W. Backus Hospital, Ms. Lisa Griffin, President & CEO, Eastern CT Savings Bank, and Ms. Dina Lopes, Vice President, People's United Bank. The TRCC Foundation held its 25th anniversary golf tournament at

Hopyard Golf Club and with the help of sponsors, volunteer and golfers raised more than \$43,000.

- TRCC Manufacturing Apprenticeship Center under construction at Grasso Tech. The Manufacturing Pipeline Initiative (MPI) is a strategic partnership of 30 community partners and 137 employers. TRCC is a critical partner, providing rapid curriculum development, program implementation and collaboration as EB's demand for a trained workforce continues to grow and transform at an accelerated rate. Bret Jacobson, Program Director; Marge Valentin, Associate Dean for Workforce Development & Community Service; and Professor Mark Vesligaj have been key to the program's success. Once students graduate from these pre-apprentice programs, many continue with their studies at TRCC through EB's Apprenticeship Programs.
- TRCC Veterans Organization, a student club was recognized by the Veterans Advising Committee on December 11 for the efforts of the student club. The club helped organize the dedication of the two parking spaces for Purple Heart recipients and held a huge Thanksgiving drive providing over 36 food baskets for the Norwich Vet Center.
- TRCC earned the Bronze 2019-2020 Military Friendly® School designation. Each year, the prestigious list of Military Friendly® Schools is provided to service members, veterans and their families, helping them select the best college to receive the education and training needed to pursue a civilian career. To earn the Bronze Military Friendly® School designation, Three Rivers met thresholds for Student Retention, Graduation, Job Placement, Loan Repayment, Persistence (Degree Advancement or Transfer) and Loan Default rates for all students and, specifically, for student veterans.
- TRCC Nursing Program received continued accreditation this spring from ACEN (Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing). Congratulations to Edie Ouellet and all the members of the nursing department for all their efforts in preparing the comprehensive report and for their involvement in the successful completion of the team visit this fall.
- TRCC Associate Professor Frederick-Douglass Knowles II has been named Hartford's First Poet Laureate. In this role, he will promote awareness and appreciation of poetry, spoken word, and writing in Hartford; and endeavor to instill pride in the community.
- TRCC named in September a new registrar, Kevin Kelly, who comes to Three Rivers with 19 years of experience. Most recently, he served as the Registrar at the University of St. Joseph in West Hartford. Prior to this, he was the Registrar at Mitchell College where he also served as the Director of the Advising Center and Vice President for Student Affairs. He brings to the College seasoned experience and solid expertise in working with a diverse population of students whether that be adult learners, first generation students, or underrepresented students.
- TRCC Rhonda Spaziani, instructor and former Director of Student Programs at Three Rivers Community College was recognized by the Jordan Porco Foundation, with the Janice Fletcher Memorial Award. This award was created to recognize a Fresh Check Day coordinator who embodies the same spirit and commitment of Janice Fletcher, the former Director of Counseling

at Lasell College, who passed away last July. Spaziani received the award at the eighth annual Jordan's Journey Gala on March 23, 2019 at the Hartford Marriott Downtown.

- TRCC was awarded the Shared Governance Award. The BOR, in conjunction with the Faculty Advisory Committee (FAC), established the CSCU Shared Governance Award in 2016 to annually recognize a CSCU institution for its outstanding contribution to shared governance within CSCU. Shared governance is defined as communication, collaboration, and mutual accountability between administration, faculty, staff, and students, which advances excellence in the operation of CSCU institutions. The committee agreed that Three Rivers has forged a new-shared governance model that fosters an environment of open discourse, transparency and reflection. Three Rivers was chosen from a pool of applicants by a four-member Selection Committee made up of current members of the FAC and BOR.
- TRCC Student Success celebrated Zachary Deziel, a nuclear program freshman, who was awarded a \$500 scholarship by the Connecticut Yankee Chapter of the American Society for Non-Destructive Testing for his essay on "How the Nondestructive Testing Field will Help the World of Tomorrow." Last semester, while taking the Architectural Design class, Jonah completed a project for the Norwich Rose Arts festival to redesign the layout of the Chelsea Parade. After reviewing all of the class submissions, the festival organizers have chosen Jonah Godfrey-Fogg's design and plan to implement it.

TUNXIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- Tunxis received a \$1 million grant from the National Science Foundation, awarded to the College of Technology to establish the Next Generation Manufacturing Resource Center. The Center will provide resources for advanced manufacturing online learning via online tools, as well as through regional and national professional conferences that engage stakeholders. The Center will also foster industry, business, and academic partnerships by increasing the availability and variety of exemplary, industry-driven advanced manufacturing curricula and resources that emphasize both technical and professional skills. Additionally, the Center will promote advanced manufacturing careers, and will coordinate and support regional and national industry, business, and academic partnerships that have the potential to create a sustainable network for advancing manufacturing programs at community colleges nationwide.
- Tunxis received supplemental grant funding for a partnership with France from the National Science Foundation. The \$120,000 award is a supplement to the Regional Center for Next Manufacturing award, and will be used to develop a travel program in partnership with French institutions so that CT community college students and faculty in the College of Technology can learn about higher education and the manufacturing sector in France.
- Tunxis has been recognized among the best two-year colleges offering online learning in Connecticut by the Community for Accredited Online Schools. A resource for campus and online learning, the site released its annual ranking for the 2018-2019 academic year, honoring Tunxis as one of the best in the state.

- Tunxis and Asnuntuck together have received more than \$22,000 in renewed grant support from Aurora Women and Girls Foundation for “Launch Your Leadership Journey,” a tuition-free, experiential leadership development program for women students at both colleges. During the semester-length program, students learn leadership qualities and gain practical experience in leading change by working in small teams to plan and execute social action projects. They are also assigned women mentors for support and guidance, and participate in a series of Saturday workshops that cover leadership presence, goal setting, assertiveness, networking and other timely topics. Tunxis celebrated the conclusion of its first “Launch Your Leadership Journey” at a graduation ceremony for 13 TCC students on April 26.
- Last fall, Tunxis announced scholarships to qualifying low-income students who receive benefits through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). SNAP, formerly known as the Food Stamp Program, provides food-purchasing assistance for low individuals and families living in the United States. SNAP Employment & Training programs were created to help recipients gain skills, training, or experience to increase their ability to obtain regular employment. With the federally funded SNAP scholarships, students can enroll in nine Continuing Education & Workforce Development health careers certificates with high industry demand at no cost. Tunxis has received \$624,530 in funds to date to provide scholarships for training to students who receive SNAP benefits, which will enable the college to serve many new students in need of financial assistance.
- Tunxis and American Job Center announced a service partnership at Bristol satellite facility Tunxis@Bristol in December at a ribbon cutting ceremony. The partnership is expected to provide opportunities to deliver employment-related services to jobseekers and employers, as well as students of Tunxis who are planning their careers.
- Tunxis held a Grand Opening Celebration of its Civic Engagement Institute (CEI) last fall. Tunxis Civic Engagement Institute is a campus organization committed to sharing knowledge and information for Tunxis students to become good citizens and neighbors. Besides civic engagement activities that occur in the classroom, CEI provides forums, guest speakers and other intellectual exchanges designed to generate ideas and help improve the lives of others.
- A new credit Civic Engagement Certificate was approved at Tunxis. Starting in fall 2019, students will be able to earn an 18-credit, multi-disciplinary certificate that demonstrates their commitment to improving their communities. The certificate folds seamlessly into eight Transfer Ticket degrees, general studies and liberal arts and sciences. To complement this credit certificate, a noncredit Civic Engagement certificate was developed which is offered through Tunxis Continuing Education & Workforce Development.

WESTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

- Two students won national and international academic awards for their work at the university. Krysta Scriven, who graduated in May with a B.A. in Professional Writing and a minor in Linguistics, was named a Fulbright scholar and will spend the fall in Bulgaria teaching English. She is the sixth WCSU Fulbright scholar in the past decade. Biology major Jasmine Grey is the first WCSU student to be recognized by the Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in

Education Foundation. She was one of 10 Connecticut residents to win the award, with the other students coming from Yale, Wesleyan and UConn.

- WCSU recently announced its intention to name the School of Visual and Performing Arts and the Visual and Performing Arts Center in honor of Marian Anderson. The naming project currently in progress seeks to recognize Anderson’s accomplishments in music and civil rights, as well as the memory of her years of activity in Danbury. On February 23, 2019, internationally acclaimed vocalist Christine Jobson and pianist Gregory Thompson performed in a concert to honor the 122nd anniversary of Anderson’s birth on February 27, 1897.
- Several additional academic departments received accreditation from governing agencies, indicating the achievement of the highest goals in each discipline. The newly certified programs include Health Promotion Studies, Nursing, Art, Clinical Mental Health Counseling, and School Counseling.
- Dr. Kelli Custer, WCSU professor of Writing, Linguistics & Creative Process, was the recipient of the Board of Regents 2019 System-Wide Teaching Award for the Connecticut State Universities. This award is given to individuals who best demonstrate high-quality teaching. Dr. Custer also received the BOR Teaching Award for WCSU.
- Political Science major Bakhtawar Izzat and recent graduate Victor Namer, a Psychology and Political Science major, both represented WCSU at the International Diplomacy Forum at the United Nations Conference Centre in Thailand this summer. Emerging young professionals from more than 50 countries assembled for practical sessions, interactive workshops, solution-based discussions, negotiation exercises, career advice and networking relating to opportunities in global diplomacy.
- Students from the School of Visual and Performing Arts continued to excel as, for the fourth year in a row, WCSU Theatre Arts students and faculty were recognized with national awards by the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival. The five latest awards, in competition with 700 schools, were for the production of “Uncle Vanya.” In addition, the Music Department’s production of “Hansel and Gretel” was honored with a first-place award by the National Opera Association.
- Both the men’s and women’s soccer programs won their respective Little East Conference titles and appeared in the NCAA Tournament. It was the most wins in program history along with their 10th appearance in the NCAA Tournament for the men’s soccer team, while the women won their 11th conference championship and made their 14th appearance in the NCAA’s.